

## FUTURE USES AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

### A. Future Uses

Outdoor recreation in a wilderness-like setting is the main attraction of the Two Hearted River. As more and more people head north to indulge in leisure time activities, it can be expected the Two Hearted will eventually feel the effects of increased use. More hunters, fishermen, canoeists, campers, hikers and private dwellings will eventually detract from the wilderness atmosphere.

Although most of the private land in the Natural River Zone is in large holdings which are apparently not intended for land development now, a potential for degradation of the wilderness environment does exist. Ways to alleviate the potential problems are discussed in subsequent parts of this plan. Except for a boat launching ramp near the mouth of the river, no known water development projects are presently being planned by the Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Water Management, or Waterways Division.

### B. Natural Problems

The only natural problems occurring in the watershed would be stream bank erosion on the lower mainstream and East Branch, and elm trees dying of Dutch-Elm disease in the low areas along the river.

Stream bank erosion is not a serious problem, although it occurs in scattered areas along the dry sandy banks of the lower portions of the river. Severe bank erosion can cause serious problems with trout habitat. If left unchecked or aggravated by man, bare sand banks contribute enough sand to silt in pools, fish cover, and gravel areas essential to trout populations. Considerations should be given to the stabilization of eroding sandbanks only where erosion will seriously endanger the quality fishing, and then only if well camouflaged. Erosion is a natural process, so if it does not endanger fish populations it should be left unchecked.

The spread of Dutch elm disease to the Upper Peninsula has caused many elms to die along the river. Eventually some of these trees will fall across or into the river and may pose minor problems for fishermen and canoeists. This too is part of the natural process and the deadfalls should not be removed.

